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REMARKS

After introduction of the amendment set forth above, claims 1-14 will be pending in the application of which claims 1 and 12 are independent. Claims 1-14 have been amended to eliminate multiple dependencies of the claims and employ a more conventional U.S. claim language. Support for the above amendments can be found throughout the original application as filed. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced by the amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

PILLSBURY WINTHROP, LLP

By: *Adam R. Hess* 48,715  
*for* Adam R. Hess  
Reg. No. 41,835  
Tel. No.: (703) 905-2089  
Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

ARH/WDW:cdw  
1600 Tysons Boulevard  
McLean, VA 22102  
(703) 905-2000

Enclosure: Appendix

APPENDIX

VERSION WITH MARKINGS SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as follows:

1. (Amended)           A process for insulating electrical components [by] comprising applying a coat of polymerizable casting and impregnating composition and/or lacquer in flowable form to the surface of the components and then curing it using high-energy radiation, [characterised in that] wherein the high-energy radiation is near-infrared (NIR) radiation.
2. (Amended)           The process as claimed in claim 1, [characterised in that] wherein the NIR radiation has a wavelength of from 500 nm to 1400 nm, preferably from 750 nm to 1100 nm.
3. (Amended)           The process as claimed in [either of] claim[s] 1 [or 2], [characterised in that] wherein the intensity maximum of the NIR radiation is situated within a wavelength range wherein the casting and impregnating composition of lacquer has an absorbance of between 20 and 80%, preferably between 40 and 70%.
4. (Amended)           The process as claimed in [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 3], [characterised in that] wherein the NIR radiation is focused so that within the coats to be cured a temperature distribution adapted to the curing characteristics of the coating composition is achieved.
5. (Amended)           The process as claimed in [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 4], [characterised in that] wherein the coating is additionally cured by means of thermal heating with heated gases, by means of UV light and/or by means of electron beams.
6. (Amended)           The process as claimed in [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 5], [characterised in that] wherein the components are impregnated at ambient temperature or in a preheated state

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or are heated during impregnation.

7. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 6, [characterised in that] wherein, following impregnation and before curing, the components are heated to the stage of partial gelling.

8. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 7, [characterised in that] wherein, following partial gelling, the components are treated with NIR radiation and then cured to completion thermally and/or with UV light.

9. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 8], [characterised in that] wherein, prior to, simultaneously with or following thermal curing the components are treated with NIR radiation and with further high-energy radiation, preferably UV radiation.

10. (Amended) The process as claimed in [one of] claim[s] 1 [to 9], [characterised in that] wherein the impregnation of the components takes place by immersion, flooding, vacuum impregnation, vacuum pressure impregnation or trickling.

11. (Amended) The process as claimed in claim 10, [characterised in that] wherein electrically conducting windings of the impregnated components are heated in the impregnating composition by applying current to an extent such that the desired amount of impregnation composition is gelled and fixed, in that after this gelling the component is removed from the impregnating composition, ungelled impregnating composition runs off and, if desired, is cooled and recycled, and in that the components are subsequently cured.

12. (Amended) An apparatus for insulating electrical components, comprising a coating means for applying a coat of polymerizable casting and impregnating composition and/or lacquer to the surface of the components and comprising a heating means for heating the components, [characterised in that] wherein the heating means comprises at least one near-infrared (NIR) radiation source.

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13. (Amended)        The apparatus as claimed in claim 12, [characterised in that] wherein the heating means comprises and electrical regulator of the NIR radiation sources in order to adjust the wavelength and/or radiative energy acting on the substrates.

14. (Amended)        The apparatus as claimed in [either of] claim[s] 12 [or 13], [characterised in that] wherein it comprises optical filter means in order to adjust the wavelength and/or radiative energy acting on the substrates.